

Effects Determination Form
Threatened and Endangered Species
NEPA supplement for ESA compliance
Project Action Biological Evaluation
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Tucson Field Office

Updated Form March 2013

Action Information related Biological Evaluations: Las Cienegas NCA RMP
Project Title: LCNCA Pronghorn Supplementation NEPA#: DOI-BLM-AZ-G020-2014-0006
Basin: Cienega Creek County: Pima
Watershed: Santa Cruz Species List Obtained: X Yes No
Topographic Location (stream/mountain): Las Cienegas NCA
Potential Species jaguar, ocelot, lesser long-nosed bat, aplomado falcon, Sprague's pipit
Affected Species: None
Affected Critical Habitat: None
Contact Biologist/Botanist: Marcia Radke
Project Contact: Marcia Radke (520 439-6428) mradke@blm.gov
Location Map: See LCNCA Pronghorn Supplementation map

Summary of Proposed Action

Arizona Game and Fish Dept. proposes to augment the existing Sonoita and San Rafael Valley pronghorn populations, which currently exists at about 60 individuals with five bucks, because genetic diversity is low. About 30-45 pronghorn would be captured in Prescott Valley and, if a capture in New Mexico is also successful, extra individuals from New Mexico may be released after other areas have their quotas.

Purpose and Need for Proposed Action

The purpose is to supplement the existing pronghorn population in the Sonoita Valley. The need for the proposed action is because herd numbers in the Sonoita Valley are decreasing, and fawn recruitment is too low to increase the population. With the low number of bucks, the herd is also susceptible to problems associated with inbreeding and no natural immigration occurs from other populations to increase genetic diversity. Preferred locations of pronghorn supplementation are areas where existing pronghorn are located, indicating that habitat conditions and water sources are favorable for the supplemented individuals. Therefore, AGFD is proposing release of supplemental pronghorn on BLM land, as well as private and state land, as needed.

A. Existing BO that covers proposed action

Name of existing BO: Las Cienegas RMP

Action consistent with BO? X YES NO

Terms and conditions of existing BO consistent with proposed action? X YES NO

If no please explain:

Any new species or critical habitat listed:

Jaguar proposed critical habitat not at proposed action area.

Chiricahua leopard frog designated critical habitat not at proposed action area.
Southwestern willow flycatcher designated critical habitat not at proposed action area.
Mexican gartersnake proposed critical habitat not at proposed action area.

If there is no existing BO that covers the proposed action please go to section B (below).

B. Determination (include clear rationale which is supported by data)

1) Determination on Original Project Proposal:

☒ No Effect

☐ May Effect, Not Likely to Adversely Effect (request concurrence)

☐ May Effect, Likely to Adversely Effect (consult)

Determination Rationale

It is highly unlikely that jaguar, ocelot, aplomado falcon, or Sprague's pipit occur in the proposed release area. There are no lesser long-nosed bat roosts in the immediate area where pronghorn would be released.

2) Determination on Project Proposal with Mitigation, Stipulations and/or Management Changes:

☐ No Effect (get concurrence)

☐ May Effect, Not Likely to Adversely Effect (consult w/ USFWS-concurrence)

☐ May Effect, Likely to Adversely Effect (consult w/ USFWS)

Determination Rationale with Mitigation, Stipulations and/or Management Changes (attached)

Signatures

Prepared By /s/ Marcia Radke Title Wildlife Biologist Date 01-20-2014
Biologist/Botanist